

## March 17, 2012 GPNJ Convention

9:45 Convention called to order by Mike Spector. Mike addressed the convention. He encouraged us to obtain signatures for Ken Wolski's senate run.

Only 50 signatures are needed for House Races this year.

### Ballot Issue

Nick pointed out we need Freeholder candidates to get a ballot line on left side of ballot instead of on far right.

### Jill Stein Speech Introduction

Jill Stein was introduced by her campaign manager and spoke on struggles in Wisconsin to overcome Governor Walker's policies and the Chamber of Commerce

Jill is homegrown and recruited into GP. Jill is speaking all over the country to get signatures. For ballot access and increase awareness of GP.

Jill is seeking denotations for her campaign to obtain federal matching funds. She needs \$5,000 in 20 states raised by contributions of \$250 or less. If 20 people give \$250, then NJ has qualified. Almost half in NJ have done so already.

She is reaching ballot access in 48 states.

### Jill's Speech

There is hope for 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Democratic movements. Obama is supporting the wrong policies, just as the Republicans are.

Jill emphasized the importance of giving people a choice and not having to vote for corporate rule.

Jill's would have communities make decisions on how to implement a Green New Deal.

She spoke of the NDAA act which did away of right to trial and HR 347 that can criminalize protest by having ground demonstrations declared national security land protestors made felons.

She called for a Voter bill of rights, IRV (rank choice), and proportional representation.

A fear campaign is waged against 3<sup>rd</sup> parties and suggests we dare not stand up to other parties. For the last 10 years this obviously has not been working. Staying silent is not working for us.

She stated student debt – must be bailed out, not banks. It would take \$1 trillion to bail out students.

### Minutes

Ed read minutes, Mike Skelly seconded and they were approved.

### Membership Committee:

Rudy is no longer working on GP issues.

Dave Petrovich volunteered for Membership committee.

### Policy Committee

Mike Skelly spoke on:

- The Policy Committee focused on building coalitions
  - Labor
  - Joined One Nation One Plan coalition

- Endorsed environmental programs
- Fracking
- Asked for interested people to help him

### Finance Committee

Inactive. Mike asked for volunteers. None

### Communications Committee

Brian Unger is out of country. Working on PHD

Bill Reitter spoke.

- We have a twitter page for GPNJ. Green Party of NJ. We have to communicate with social media.
- We have major presence on Facebook
- Working on meetup page
- We have a GPJ tube channel. Dozens of videos from all over the world
- Bill has reached out to college students in south jersey. Rowan U. **Progressive Student Alliance. (PSA) Wed. evening at 7:00.** Almost all campuses have one. Drew Howard.
- Gail Baker volunteered to be on committee
- Nick Mellis Dan Evans, Beresford, volunteered for communications committee

Beresford was to establish an anti fracking campaign in NJ. He spoke to Chrisie's veto on anti fracking bill and detriments of fracking.

- Robert Gordon is sponsor of anti? Fracking bill.
- He asked for volunteers

Beresford also spoke about people thinking voting is a waste of time.

- We take no money from corps

### Treasurer report

- Steve will step down. Elected to national SC
- Will serve as treasurer for Ken Wolski campaign
- Last year revenue \$956 in 2011
  - Dues and contributions
- Expenditures \$1,519
  - 50% for convention]
  - \$450 transfer to submit unto for Monmouth County Event.
  - Admin filing fees, annual corp fees. Membership in one plan, web hosting, etc.
- \$564 drawdown for the year
- \$21,639 starting ending \$21,075
  - Earl Grey legacy will last 40 years at that rate

Nick did not want to be treasurer partly because of potential legal matters.

### National report

Beresford went to national meeting in Alsford NY. He spoke to events there which was much better than email postings of NC. No animosity there.

U.S. has one party with 2 different names.

### Ken Mesplay Presentation

Ken Mesplay via skype regarding his campaign for the nomination and took questions from us.

Lunch Break

## National Update – Steve Welzer

- Convention is in Baltimore 7/12 – 15.
- 7/14 is nominee selection.
- National is on upswing
  - Fundraising up
  - GP USA has gone from 15 to 20 states with ballot lines
  - There are 43 affiliated state parties.
  - 3 caucuses: black, women lavender
    - Latino and youth caucuses are being formed
    - College greens website: [www.collegegreens.org](http://www.collegegreens.org)
  - 3/29 - 4/1 Dakar, Senegal: 3<sup>rd</sup> Greens Congress
  - Steve is on the national steering committee.

## Lunch Break & Jeff Saxon Performance

Jeff Saxon gave us a performance. He sang songs from his new album – ‘Murdering Us from the Sky’.

## Election petitions

- 6/5 is date to for signature petitions to be returned for Congressional and Senate races.
  - For presidential election, we have until 7/30 to return petitions.
    - We discussed whose name on presidential petition?
      - We are petitioning for a ballot line for a candidate to be selected in July
    - We can circulate petition with no name or with person who gets our preference now.
      - Steve suggested that we put the winner of our vote on the signature petition
        - State allows us to pout Roseanne Barr on petition but if Jill Stein gets nomination we can substitute her name.
    - We want to obtain 1,500 signatures on our petitions

## GPUS National Committee Delegate

Beresford Jones & Steve Welzer were elected.

Nick Mellis & Dan Evans Farkas were selected as alternates.

## County Updates Provided By:

Bergen – Ed  
Essex/Passaic- Bud Feter  
Camden – Mark  
Glouster – Bill  
Mercer – Nick  
Monmouth - Rich

## County Coordinators Needed

Atlantic, Cape May, Morris, Union Warren need county coordinators.

## NJ Ballot Line

For the Green Party to have its own ballot line in November, we need to have freeholder candidates to compliment our senatorial and congressional candidates.

## Roseanne Barr Speech

Roseanne Barr via skype spoke regarding her campaign for the nomination and took questions from us.

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### Results of GPUS Presidential Election

- 14 votes for Jill Stein
- 4 votes for Roseanne Barr
  - 77.7% for Jill Stein
  - 4 delegates for Jill Stein and 1 for Roseanne Barr

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### Proposal for Jill Stein to be listed as Presidential Candidate and Roseanne Barr as VP on the Presidential Petitions

This proposal passed

### Electors for Petition

Page 3 of presidential ballot has the electors. 14 people volunteered to be lectors.

### Election of GPNJ Officers

Chair: Bill Ritter  
Vice Chair: Beresford Jones  
Second Vice Chair Gail Dixon  
Secretary: Mark Heacock  
Treasurer: George Armstrong

### **They were elected by acclimation**

### Discussion of Treasury Requirements

- Issue - if your county raises money as the GP of County X must you say how much money was raised and spent?
  - If you don't raise money, you do not have to do this
  - Must a county have an authorized treasurer and take a State test?
  - MC, Mercer, Camden are in compliance
  - Steve stated we should do the research to find out what has to be done

### Ken Wolski our Senatorial Candidate

Steve introduced Ken Wolski. Steve:

- Suggested we take the full petition and help obtain 1,600 signatures
  - Unemployment office is a good place to get signatures
  - On Sunday Jinee 3 we will go to Ken's house and notary will sign.
  - Our petition ballot must say for 'The General Election'

### Ken Spoke:

Ken has been a RN for 35 years Ken spoke on:

- The horrible drug policy of the US
- The prison complex
- Health benefits of medical marijuana
- Corrosive impact of money in politics
- Universal health care

### Discussion

A discussion took place on taking actions to the streets vs. electoral policies.

Education, prevention and treatment instead of incarceration & beatings.

Bill Ritter Closing Remarks

Bill spoke on:

- Importance of jobs to individuals
  - not just jobs but green jobs that are safe
- Social and economic justice
- Peace

Closing Statement made by Beresford Jones

- Regarding Wall Street corruption

The convention concluded at 4:13pm